DOCKET NO: 1408.1003/DMP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of 35 U.S.C. §371 of:

Hiroshi KAKUTANI, et al.

Based Upon International Serial No. PCT/JP00/08452	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	Examiner: Unassigned
Confirmation No.	

U.S. Filing Date:

For: **CHARACTER-RECOGNITION PRE-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please enter the amended claim 5, with the remaining claims 1-4 and 6-7 unchanged.

The following amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 as follows:

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character-recognition pre-processing apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 further comprising:

second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the judgment means.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 5 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.
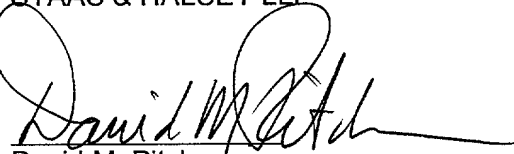
Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
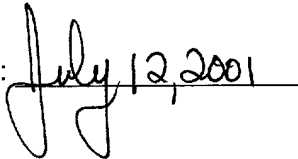
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 12, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 5 as follows:

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A character-recognition pre-processing apparatus according to any one of [claims 1 to 4] claims 1 to 3 further comprising:

second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the judgment means.